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South Dakota
Labor Bulletin

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NONAGRICULTURAL WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT REVIEW FOR 1983

South Dakota made a bid for a sustained recovery in 1983. With South Dakota's economy becoming increasingly intertwined with that of the national economy, the dramatic improvement in the national economy was a key factor helping to push the State's economic hopes higher. Last month the Labor Bulletin featured a brief and general overview of the labor market in 1983. This month's article takes a closer look at the individual labor economies of South Dakota's wage and salaried employment. The data used in this report are employment annual averages for 1983 as indicators of the state's overall progress.

MANUFACTURING - TURNS FOR THE BETTER

Annual average manufacturing employment increased in 1983, after having dropped to one of its lowest points in 1982. Manufacturing industries have achieved significant progress during the year, with employment showing gains in both absolute and percentage terms: 2,400 jobs and a 10 percent increase.

The unforeseen turnaround in durable goods manufacturing, including home appliances, auto parts, and computer components, led the way in increasing manufacturing employment. This has also occurred on a national basis and is another indication that South Dakota's economy has become more attuned to the national economy. Therefore, as the national recovery continues, South Dakota's manufacturing industry is expected to react in a positive manner.

CONSTRUCTION - CHANGES DIRECTION

Construction's downward trend checked itself in 1983, realizing its first annual average employment increase in several years. Employment stabilized due to lower interest rates and increased consumer confidence. These in turn spurred an increase in new home building and industrial construction in the state. In December 1983, construction was up 5.5 percent or 400 jobs from one year ago. Continued modest improvement is expected in the coming years as commercial construction picks up in the state, particularly in urban areas.

FINANCE, INSURANCE AND REAL ESTATE - EXPANDS

Annual average employment in finance, insurance, and real estate continued its increase of recent years in 1983. Employment in this industry increased 5.0 percent. The December total of 12,600 jobs compares with 12,000 jobs a year earlier. Banks and credit agencies furnished the lion's share of this increase. This industry could have substantial gains in employment in the future if state laws allowing banks to own insurance companies are allowed to stand.

SERVICES - EMPLOYMENT GROWS

Services employment continued to show deliberate, steady growth during 1983. Without the jobs provided by the diverse services industry during the past few years, unemployment in South Dakota could have spiraled higher. Employment in this industry averaged 53,300 in 1983, 1,300 more jobs than in 1982. Most of the new services' jobs in 1983 were centered in hotels, motels, amusements and personal and business services.

MINING - REMAINS STABLE

Mining has remained a stable industry in South Dakota. The mining industry's annual average employment in South Dakota appears to have grown in 1983, however a closer look reveals that most of the yearly increase is a readjustment after the settlement of a strike in the mining industry in 1982.

WHOLESALE AND RETAIL TRADE - LAGS BEHIND NATIONAL

Consumer spending in South Dakota has significant impact on the trade industries. On an annual average trade appears to have not followed as closely with the national recovery as other industries in 1983. However, employment in retail trade broadened from November 1982 to November 1983 by 400 jobs.

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EMPLOYMENT IN TRANSPORTATION, COMMUNICATION AND PUBLIC UTILITIES - DECREASES

The transportation and utilities industry experienced an annual average decrease in employment from 1982 to 1983. A portion of the decrease was due to a strike occurring in the communications industry in 1983.

The communications decrease is also a reflection of shifts taking place due to changes that are occurring as sections of this industry become increasingly competitive.

SUMMARY OF 1983

Nonagricultural wage and salary employment rose in 1983, providing the stimulus for lower joblessness. The number of nonagricultural employed persons in South Dakota expanded by about 2,800 during the year. This was much improved from 1982's decrease of nearly 6,000. Most industries losing employment in 1982 recovered some of it back in 1983. Accelerated employment in the manufacturing industries added jobs. Services, and employment in the finance, insurance and real estate industries also continued to increase new jobs for the state in 1983. Construction in South Dakota appeared to stabilize in 1983. The mining industry held its own, while the trade, and transportation and public utilities industries have yet to visibly respond to the national economy. Communication industries are being affected by national trends and employment is expected to fluctuate until a settling occurs in certain sectors of this industry.

The state has shown more economic get-up-and-go in the last half of 1983 than in the previous three years. South Dakota's nonagricultural wage and salary employment expansion this year provided a much needed boost.

SOUTH DAKOTA'S 1983 ANNUAL AVERAGE NONAGRICULTURAL WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY

	1983	1982	Percentage Change
TOTAL	233.0	230.2	1.2
MINING	2.6	2.3	13.0
CONSTRUCTION	8.3	8.2	1.2
MANUFACTURING	25.7	24.8	3.6
Durable Goods	13.1	12.2	7.4
Fabricated Metals & Machinery	8.3	7.8	6.4
Nondurable Goods	12.6	12.5	0.8
Food & Kindred Products	7.7	7.9	-2.5
Paper, Printing & Publishing	2.6	2.5	4.0
TRANSPORTATION AND PUBLIC UTILITIES	12.3	12.5	-1.6
Transportation	6.9	6.9	0.0
Communication & Public Utilities	5.4	5.6	-3.6
WHOLESALE AND RETAIL TRADE	61.6	61.9	-0.5
Wholesale Trade	16.2	16.4	-1.3
Durable Goods	7.1	7.4	-4.1
Nondurable Goods	9.1	9.1	0.0
Retail Trade	45.4	45.5	-0.2
FINANCE, INSURANCE AND REAL ESTATE	12.4	11.8	5.1
SERVICES	53.3	52.0	2.5
Hotels, Amuse., Pers. & Business	14.0	13.5	3.7
Medical and Health	22.1	21.6	2.3
Educational, Membership & Social	14.3	14.0	2.1
GOVERNMENT	56.9	56.6	0.5
Federal	10.2	10.2	0.0
State	16.0	15.8	1.3
State Education	7.5	7.4	1.4
Local	30.7	30.7	0.0
Local Education	17.2	17.2	0.0

THE SOUTH DAKOTA LABOR MARKET

Despite the seasonal winter increases during the last two months, South Dakota's unemployment in December remained below the level of one year ago. The December unemployment rate of 5.3 percent was well below the year-ago figure of 6.0 percent and compared with 4.7 percent in November and 4.1 percent in October. There were 16,800 South Dakotans unemployed in December--2,000 fewer than a year earlier.

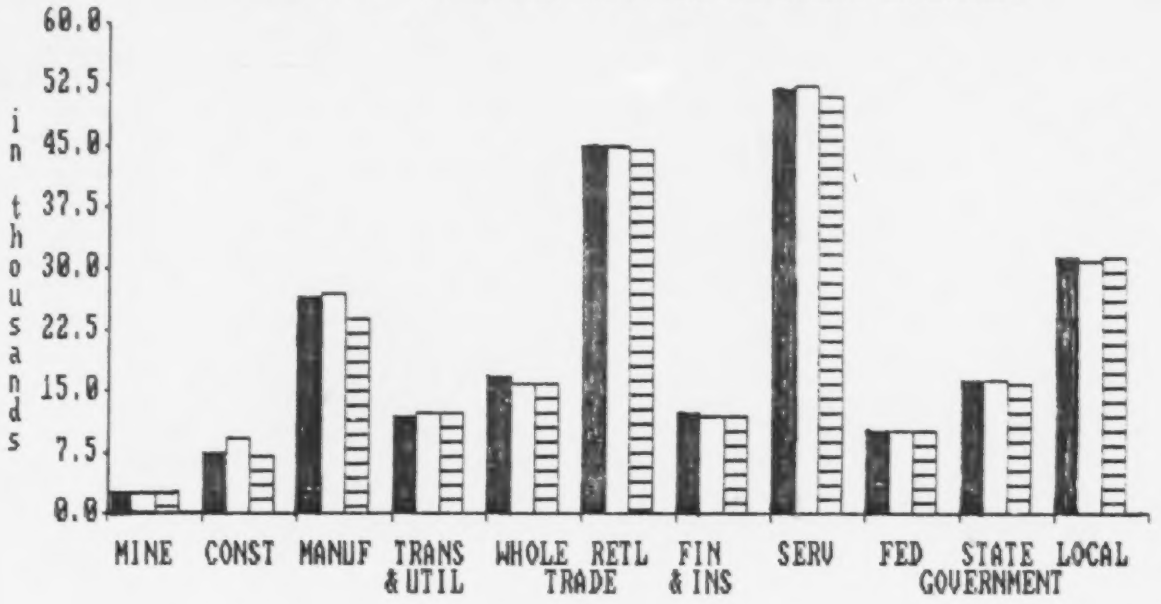
The unemployment rate improved substantially during 1983. However, the high rates recorded in early 1983 will keep the overall average for the year at about the same level as 1982. However, if the progress that began in the late spring of 1983 should persist through 1984, the State will experience its first annual decline in unemployment since 1978.

The South Dakota unemployment rate for 1983, which is expected to be 5.5 percent when the final revisions are in, compares to the national average of 9.6 percent.

Initial claims for unemployment compensation continued to drop in December, a signal of a strengthening economy. The unemployment insurance trust fund has nearly doubled during the past year as a result of fewer claims for compensation. As the economic recovery cycle continues more money may be available for business expansion.

Another positive indication of an expanding economy is the steady increase in the average weekly hours in the manufacturing of durable and nondurable goods. The December average was 42.6 hours compared with 40.7 hours one year ago. The durable goods sector of the manufacturing industry has shown especially strong growth during the past year. The average work-week of these production workers went from 39.0 hours in December 1982 to 42.6 hours in December 1983.

SOUTH DAKOTA NONAGRICULTURAL WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT



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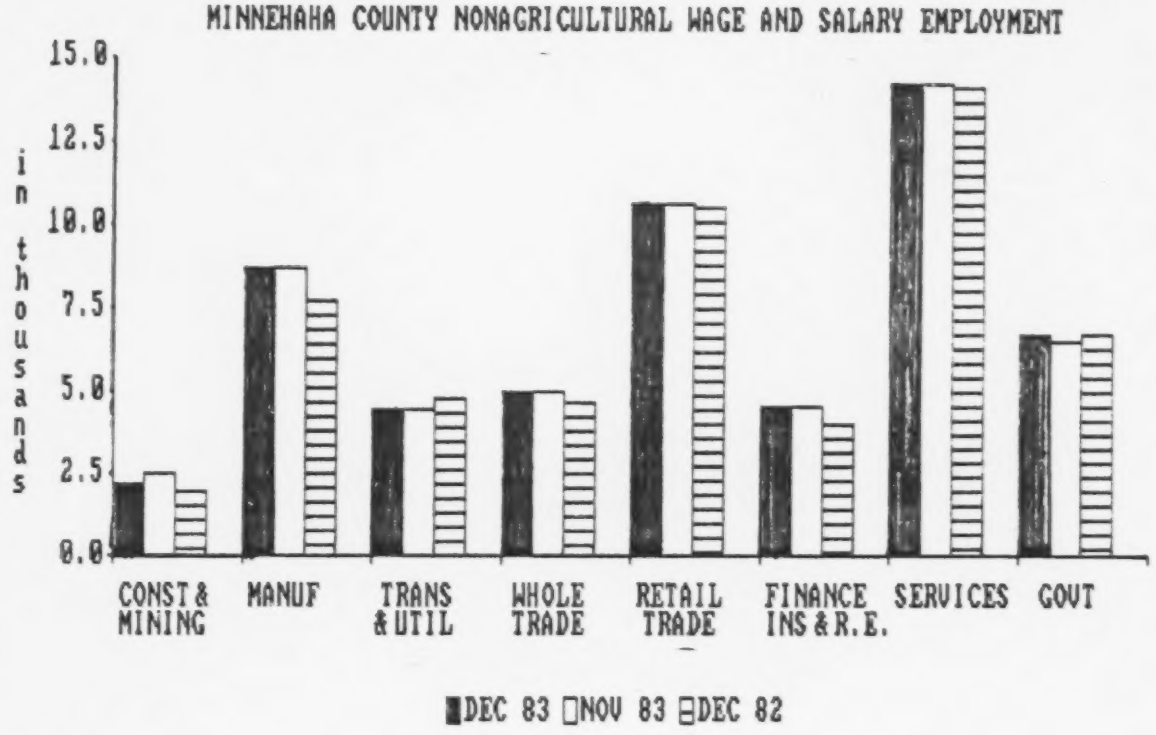
	Dec. 1983	Nov. 1983	Dec. 1982	Change From Last Month	Change From Last Year
TOTAL	233 700	236 000	228 700	-1.0	2.2
MINING	2 700	2 900	2 700	-6.9	.0
CONSTRUCTION	7 700	9 200	7 300	-16.3	5.5
MANUFACTURING	26 500	27 000	24 100	-1.9	10.0
Durable Goods	13 900	14 100	11 500	-1.4	20.9
Fabricated Metals & Machinery	9 500	9 600	7 100	-1.0	33.8
Nondurable Goods	12 500	12 800	12 600	-2.3	-.8
Food & Kindred Products	7 200	7 600	7 700	-5.3	-6.5
Paper, Printing & Publishing	2 500	2 500	2 400	.0	4.2
TRANSPORTATION AND PUBLIC UTILITIES	12 100	12 100	12 500	.0	-3.2
Transportation	6 700	6 700	7 000	.0	-4.3
Communication & Public Utilities	5 400	5 500	5 500	-1.8	-1.8
WHOLESALE AND RETAIL TRADE	61 800	62 000	60 700	-.3	1.8
Wholesale Trade	16 800	16 700	16 000	.6	5.0
Durable Goods	7 600	7 600	7 200	.0	5.6
Nondurable Goods	9 200	9 100	8 800	1.1	4.5
Retail Trade	45 000	45 300	44 700	-.7	.7
FINANCE, INSURANCE AND REAL ESTATE	12 600	12 300	12 000	2.4	5.0
SERVICES	52 100	52 600	51 600	-1.0	1.0
Hotels, Amuse., Pers. & Business	13 400	13 700	12 800	-2.2	4.7
Medical and Health	21 700	21 800	21 700	-.5	.0
Educational, Membership & Social	13 900	14 100	14 200	-1.4	-2.1
GOVERNMENT	58 300	57 900	57 800	.7	.9
Federal	10 200	10 100	10 200	1.0	.0
State	16 500	16 600	16 200	-.6	1.9
State Education	8 500	8 600	8 400	-1.2	1.2
Local	31 600	31 200	31 400	1.3	.6
Local Education	18 600	18 300	18 400	1.6	1.1



	Dec. 1983	Nov. 1983	Dec. 1982	Percent Change from Last Month	Percent Change from Last Year
TOTAL	56,900	57,200	55,000	-.5	3.5
CONSTRUCTION AND MINING	2,200	2,600	2,000	-15.4	10.0
MANUFACTURING	8,700	8,900	7,800	-2.2	11.5
TRANSPORTATION AND PUBLIC UTILITIES	4,500	4,400	4,800	2.3	-6.3
TRADE	15,700	15,700	15,300	.0	2.6
Wholesale Trade	5,000	5,000	4,700	.0	6.4
Retail Trade	10,700	10,700	10,600	.0	.9
FINANCE, INSURANCE AND REAL ESTATE	4,600	4,600	4,100	.0	12.2
SERVICES	14,300	14,300	14,200	.0	.7
GOVERNMENT	6,800	6,800	6,800	.0	.0

The figures in Table 1 include almost all nonfarm wage earners (full-time and part-time) but exclude the self-employed. They are derived from a monthly sample survey of South Dakota nonagricultural establishments and include workers on the payroll for the week including the 12th of the month. This table compares the current month's employment totals of the major industry groups to the totals of the previous month and year.

TABLE 2

LABOR FORCE / EMPLOYMENT / UNEMPLOYMENT

	December 1983 (1)				December 1982			
	Labor Force(2)	Employment	Unemployment	Rate	Labor Force(2)	Employment	Unemployment	Rate
United States	111 795 000	102 803 000	8 992 000	8.0 (3)	110 477 000	98 849 000	11 628 000	10.5 (3)
South Dakota	315 900	299 100	16 800	5.3	315 900	297 100	18 800	6.0
Sioux Falls MSA	64 763	61 834	2 929	4.5	63 066	60 029	3 037	4.8
Aurora	1 367	1 314	53	3.9	1 390	1 323	67	4.8
Beadle	8 394	7 967	427	5.1	9 292	8 749	543	5.8
Bennett	1 330	1 277	53	4.0	1 327	1 277	50	3.8
Bon Homme	3 209	3 056	153	4.8	3 317	3 178	139	4.2
Brookings	13 146	12 455	691	5.3	13 519	12 741	778	5.8
Brown	18 421	17 326	1 095	5.9	18 641	17 407	1 234	6.6
Brule	2 887	2 750	137	4.7	2 852	2 740	112	3.9
Buffalo	462	433	29	6.3	479	389	90	18.8
Butte	3 443	3 242	201	5.8	3 850	3 560	290	7.5
Campbell	783	713	70	8.9	953	898	55	5.8
Charles Mix	3 549	3 357	192	5.4	3 727	3 527	200	5.4
Clark	1 860	1 718	142	7.6	1 849	1 734	115	6.2
Clay	5 904	5 581	323	5.5	6 017	5 622	395	6.6
Codington	9 939	9 105	834	8.4	10 097	9 239	858	8.5
Corson	1 211	1 105	106	8.8	1 152	1 026	126	10.9
Custer	2 253	2 119	134	5.9	2 328	2 153	175	7.5
Davison	8 897	8 588	309	3.5	9 157	8 765	392	4.3
Day	2 814	2 617	197	7.0	2 901	2 658	243	8.4
Deuel	1 798	1 626	172	9.6	1 732	1 495	237	13.7
Dewey	1 891	1 750	141	7.5	1 653	1 474	179	10.8
Douglas	1 676	1 616	60	3.6	1 696	1 624	72	4.2
Edmunds	1 832	1 734	98	5.3	1 900	1 781	119	6.3
Fall River	3 131	2 985	146	4.7	3 001	2 783	218	7.3
Faulk	1 136	1 085	51	4.5	1 299	1 232	67	5.2
Grant	4 359	4 146	213	4.9	4 114	3 930	184	4.5
Gregory	2 380	2 263	117	4.9	2 360	2 284	76	3.2
Haakon	1 201	1 165	36	3.0	1 365	1 275	90	6.6
Hamlin	1 690	1 573	117	6.9	1 761	1 621	140	8.0
Hand	1 935	1 860	75	3.9	1 865	1 751	114	6.1
Hanson	997	951	46	4.6	954	903	51	5.3
Harding	608	593	15	2.5	624	616	8	1.3
Hughes	7 529	7 164	365	4.8	7 336	7 035	301	4.1
Hutchinson	3 951	3 819	132	3.3	3 797	3 619	178	4.7
Hyde	796	724	72	9.0	738	705	33	4.5
Jackson	987	903	84	8.5	794	713	81	10.2
Jerauld	1 110	1 086	24	2.2	1 240	1 176	64	5.2
Jones	590	533	57	9.7	580	539	41	7.1
Kingsbury	3 203	3 055	148	4.6	3 202	2 977	225	7.0
Lake	4 954	4 671	283	5.7	5 320	4 999	321	6.0
Lawrence	9 145	8 651	494	5.4	9 732	9 125	607	6.2
Lincoln	6 048	5 787	261	4.3	5 771	5 393	378	6.5
Lyman	1 316	1 241	75	5.7	1 368	1 296	72	5.3
McCook	2 717	2 561	156	5.7	2 797	2 632	165	5.9
McPherson	1 386	1 331	55	4.0	1 447	1 366	81	5.6
Marshall	1 809	1 675	134	7.4	1 842	1 636	206	11.2
Meade	5 745	5 434	311	5.4	4 990	4 658	332	6.7
Mellette	723	663	60	8.3	650	589	61	9.4
Miner	1 459	1 390	69	4.7	1 579	1 499	80	5.1
Minnehaha	64 763	61 834	2 929	4.5	63 066	60 029	3 037	4.8
Moody	3 702	3 220	482	13.0	3 278	3 114	164	5.0
Pennington	36 533	34 709	1 824	5.0	35 857	33 750	2 107	5.9
Perkins	1 946	1 912	34	1.7	2 066	1 977	89	4.3
Potter	1 710	1 626	84	4.9	1 736	1 636	100	5.8
Roberts	3 719	3 455	264	7.1	3 785	3 443	342	9.0
Sanborn	1 186	1 116	70	5.9	1 191	1 127	64	5.4
Shannon	2 769	2 498	271	9.8	2 652	2 332	320	12.1
Spink	3 343	3 228	115	3.4	3 564	3 414	150	4.2
Stanley	1 275	1 203	72	5.6	1 070	1 014	56	5.2
Sully	598	564	34	5.7	649	610	39	6.0
Todd	2 030	1 893	137	6.7	1 734	1 520	214	12.3
Tripp	2 882	2 779	103	3.6	3 014	2 883	131	4.3
Turner	3 784	3 609	175	4.6	3 527	3 326	201	5.7
Union	5 090	4 725	365	7.2	5 649	5 256	393	7.0
Walworth	2 648	2 490	158	6.0	2 775	2 600	175	6.3
Yankton	8 911	8 427	484	5.4	9 063	8 539	524	5.8
Ziebach	1 106	1 072	34	3.1	902	843	59	6.5

(1) Preliminary data subject to revision.

(2) Labor Force estimates include employed and unemployed civilians 16 years old and older by place of residence.

(3) The seasonally adjusted rates which were announced by the national government were 8.2 and 10.7. The data in this table are not seasonally adjusted.

TABLE 3

HOURS AND EARNINGS PRODUCTION WORKERS*

	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
	Dec. 1983	Nov. 1983	Dec. 1982	Dec. 1983	Nov. 1983	Dec. 1982	Dec. 1983	Nov. 1983	Dec. 1982
South Dakota Statewide									
Manufacturing.....	$301.61	$299.48	$302.81	42.6	42.6	40.7	7.08	7.03	7.44
Durable Goods.....	293.09	277.14	265.59	42.6	40.4	39.0	6.88	6.86	6.81
Nondurable Goods.....	312.14	326.61	338.35	42.7	45.3	42.4	7.31	7.21	7.98
Sioux Falls SMSA									
Manufacturing.....	308.25	337.56	369.15	45.0	48.5	45.8	6.85	6.96	8.06

*Average hours and earnings for production-related workers.

The figures in this table are for production-related workers in the manufacturing industry. The earnings estimates are based on gross pay before deductions and include pay for overtime, holidays, vacations, and sick leave. They exclude bonuses (unless earned and paid regularly each pay period).

TABLE 4

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX
ALL URBAN CONSUMERS

1967=100	Nov. 1983	Oct. 1983	Nov. 1982	Percent Change From Last Month	Percent Change From Last Year
All Items.....	303.1	302.6	293.6	.2	3.2
Food & Beverages....	285.3	285.7	279.1	-.1	2.2
Housing.....	327.0	326.8	319.0	.1	2.5
Apparel.....	200.7	200.7	195.4	.0	2.7
Transportation.....	306.3	305.0	295.8	.4	3.5
Medical Care.....	364.9	362.9	342.2	.6	6.6
Entertainment.....	249.5	249.1	239.9	.2	4.0

The Consumer Price Index is a widely watched national indicator of inflation. It is a measure of change, over time, in the prices of goods and services in major expenditure groups typically purchased by urban consumers. It measures the change in prices by comparing what a sample "market basket" of goods and services costs today with what the same sample "market basket" cost at an earlier date.

TABLE 5

CHARACTERISTICS OF THE INSURED UNEMPLOYED[1] - STATEWIDE

	Number			Percent		
	Dec. 1983	Nov. 1983	Dec. 1982	Dec. 1983	Nov. 1983	Dec. 1982
Sex, Total	3 157	1 860	4 740	100.0	100.0	100.0
Male	2 408	1 191	3 265	76.3	64.0	68.9
Female	749	669	1 475	23.7	36.0	31.1
Race, Total	3 157	1 860	4 740	100.0	100.0	100.0
White	2 890	1 630	3 886	91.5	87.6	82.0
Nonwhite	267	230	854	8.5	12.4	18.0
Age, Total	3 157	1 860	4 740	100.0	100.0	100.0
Under 45	2 449	1 446	3 740	77.6	77.7	78.9
Over 45	708	414	1 000	22.4	22.3	21.1
[2] Industry, Total	3 157	1 860	4 740	100.0	100.0	100.0
Mining	86	26	192	2.7	1.4	4.1
Construction	978	202	1 166	31.0	10.9	24.6
Manufacturing	617	345	1 235	19.5	18.5	26.0
Transportation & Public Utilities	105	83	211	3.3	4.5	4.5
Trade	574	498	923	18.2	26.8	19.5
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	62	54	83	2.0	2.9	1.7
Services	520	477	696	16.5	25.6	14.7
Government	215	175	234	6.8	9.4	4.9
[2] Occupation, Total	3 157	1 860	4 740	100.0	100.0	100.0
Professional & Managerial	335	316	558	10.6	17.0	11.8
Clerical and Sales	374	374	594	11.8	20.1	12.6
Services	346	294	470	11.0	15.8	9.9
Processing	101	73	148	3.2	3.9	3.1
Machine Trade	113	85	346	3.6	4.6	7.3
Benchwork	155	91	523	4.9	4.9	11.0
Structural Work	1 256	383	1 450	39.8	20.6	30.6
Other	477	244	651	15.1	13.1	13.7
Duration of Current Spell of Unemployment						
Total	3 157	1 860	4 740	100.0	100.0	100.0
1-2 Weeks	680	358	637	21.5	19.2	13.5
3-4 Weeks	542	244	642	17.2	13.1	13.5
5-14 Weeks	1 137	762	2 066	36.0	41.0	43.6
15 Weeks & Over	798	496	1 395	25.3	26.7	29.4

1 The insured unemployed are those unemployed persons who had worked for employers covered by South Dakota's Unemployment Insurance Laws, and who are eligible for unemployment compensation.

2 Refers to industry and occupation involvement prior to unemployment.

Unemployment Rates by State, November 1983

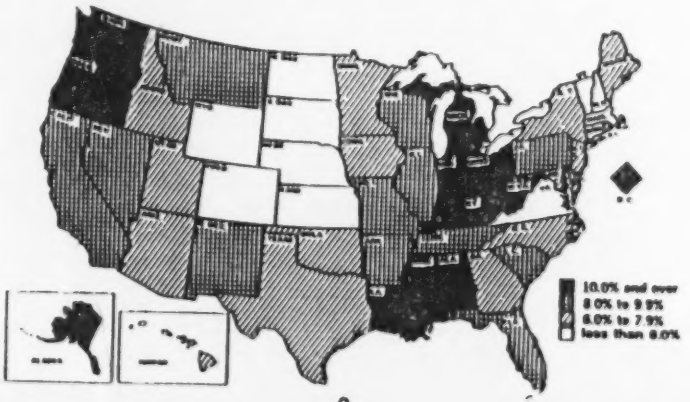


TABLE 6

SELECTED LABOR DEPARTMENT ACTIVITIES - STATEWIDE

	Dec. 1983	Nov. 1983	Dec. 1982	Percent Change From Last Month	Percent Change From Last Year
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE					
A. Initial Claims.....	3 343	2 552	4 326	31.0	-22.7
B. Weeks Claimed.....	11 931	8 973	25 482	33.0	-53.2
C. Amount of Benefit Payments.....	$1 188 221	$595 433	$2 025 593	99.6	-41.3
D. Unemployment Trust Fund Balance...	$14 338 800	$15 346 600	$7 569 600	-6.6	89.4
JOB SERVICE					
E. Applicants Available (New and Renewals).....	6 147	7 309	5 844	-15.9	5.2
F. Nonag Placements.....	3 061	3 469	2 109	-11.8	45.1
G. Nonag Job Openings.....	2 694	2 849	1 875	-5.4	43.7

The data in this table are taken from the records of the State unemployment insurance program and the State Job Service system.

A. Initial Claims - The total number of first claims for unemployment compensation.

B. Weeks Claimed - The total number of weeks for which claimants received compensation under the State Unemployment Insurance Program.

C. Amount of Benefit Payments - The total amount of money paid to claimants through our State Program.

D. Unemployment Trust Fund Balance - The fund to which all required Unemployment Insurance Taxes are paid and from which all benefits to claimants are paid.

E. Applicants Available (New and Renewals) - The total number of different individuals who registered or renewed their applications for work at Job Service offices in the State.

F. Nonag Placements - A count of the number of times during the month that Job Service applicants were hired by nonfarm employers.

G. Nonag Job Openings - A count of new job openings received during the month by South Dakota Job Service offices from nonfarm employers.

The Research and Statistics Section of the South Dakota Department of Labor collects, analyzes and publishes information concerning the economy, labor market and population characteristics. This information can be very important to economic developers; social and training program planners; business, education and government administrators.

LABOR MARKET INFORMATION AVAILABLE

DID YOU KNOW???

DID YOU KNOW IN SOUTH DAKOTA:

- The 1980 census shows 72.4 percent of workers 16 years of age and over used private vehicles as a means of transportation to work. Approximately one-fifth of those persons using private vehicles car-pooled. Public transportation accounted for 0.4 percent. Other means of transportation to work were as follows: bicycle, 0.9 percent; motorcycle, 0.6 percent; walked, 12.6 percent; other means, 1.2 percent.

DID YOU KNOW:

- According to the 1980 census, 71.7 percent of South Dakota's citizens were born in the state. Those born in another state accounted for 27.9 percent and those born abroad or at sea accounted for 0.4 percent. Only 1.4 percent of the total population was foreign born. Persons born out of state accounted for 34.4 percent of urban area residents. Those citizens in places of 2,500 to 10,000 population showed a significantly higher percentage of residents born out of state than cities over 10,000 population. Of rural residents, those living on farms and communities with less than 2,500 population, 22.3 percent were born out of state. Rural farm residents registered the lowest rate for persons born out of state, 15.2 percent, while their counterparts in communities with less than 2,500 persons recorded 25.5 percent.

(These facts are found in publication PC80-1-C43, U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census).

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A LOOK BACK AT UNEMPLOYMENT

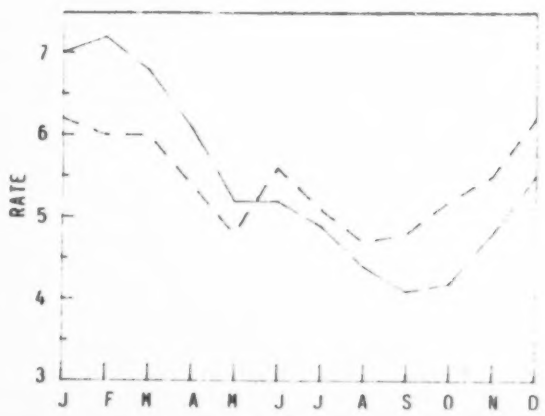
The South Dakota annual unemployment rate was 5.4 percent in 1983. This indicator of South Dakota's economic well-being reversed it's annual upward trend of the last five years and realized its first decline since 1978. This is further evidence of an improving economy which began in the second half of the year and is continuing into 1984. The annual average unemployment rate for the years 1978 through 1983 are below:

Annual Average Unemployent Rate	
1978	3.1
1979	3.5
1980	4.9
1981	5.1
1982	5.5
1983	5.4

The improved unemployment condition in 1983 is masked by the relatively high rates recorded at the beginning of the year. The graph below compares 1982 and 1983 unemployment rates by month, and reveals that although the rate started out higher in 1983 than in 1982, the year 1983 ended with a lower unemployment rate than in 1982. This improvement over 1982's rate began in the second half of 1983 and continued until the end of the year.

SOUTH DAKOTA UNEMPLOYMENT RATES

1982- - - 1983——



South Dakota's unemployment rate in January 1984 was 5.4 percent, representing 16,900 people. This compares to the year-ago figure of 7.0 percent or 21,900 unemployed. The unemployment decrease is significant when considering that the improvement is a continuation of the gains that occurred in the second half of 1983.

SOUTH DAKOTA LABOR MARKET

Revised nonfarm payroll employment figures for South Dakota show that the State's economy has improved considerably during the past year. In early 1983 many of the State's industries were hitting their employment low after four years of hard times. That situation has changed for most of these sectors, as reflected in over-the-year job increases recorded in Table 1.

Manufacturing had the largest increase in January 1984, with 2,600 more jobs than in January 1983. Leading this increase was fabricated metals and machinery manufacturing which added 1,700 jobs. Construction employment had the next largest percentage increase among the major industries, up 9.7 percent or 600 jobs. Finance/Insurance/Real Estate employment was also up 600 from year-ago levels. Services added 900 jobs during the past year.

SOUTH DAKOTA OBSERVES "OLDER WORKER WEEK"

The State of South Dakota will observe national "Employ the Older Worker Week" March 11th through the 17th. During this time the Department of Labor hopes to increase public awareness of the problems peculiar to older job seekers. The Federal Government defines an older worker as an employee who is experiencing, encountering, or may expect to encounter difficulty in getting or keeping a job principally because of age. Employers are being asked to consider the advantages of hiring an older worker, with the hope that this integral and productive part of South Dakota's labor force will be utilized to its fullest potential.

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